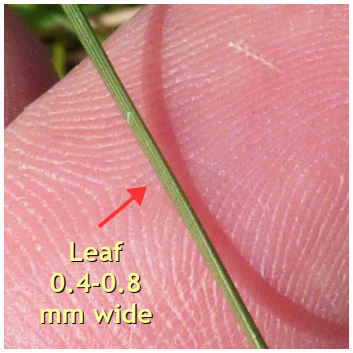
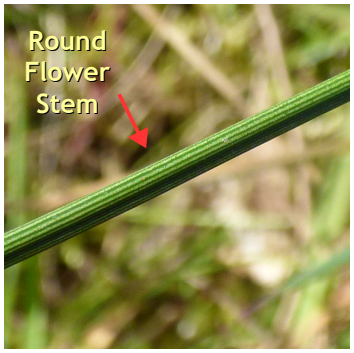
Cotton Grasses (in Edinburgh/Lothians)

Download Latest Version

- Cotton grasses are technically not grasses but sedges. They like wet ground so aren't common in a city environment but can be found outside.
- Page refs are: **COL** Collins Pocket Guide to Grasses etc, **SDG3** BSBI Sedges ed 3, **STC3** Stace ed 3.
- For these look at whether the heads are single or clustered, and measure leaf width.

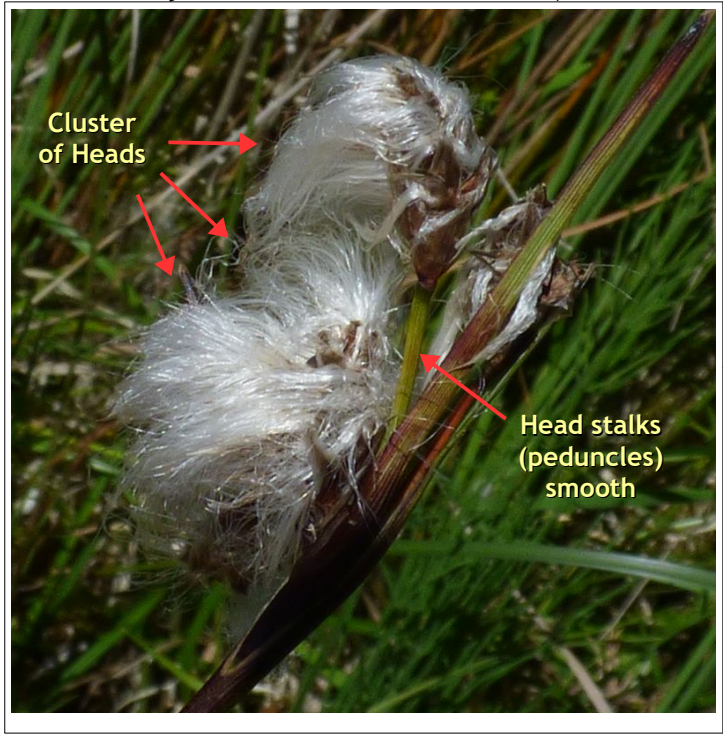
Hare's-Tail Cotton Grass – Common outside bypass, rare inside it - Eriophorum vaginatum - Map - GCOL-120-4, SDG3-88, STC3:942

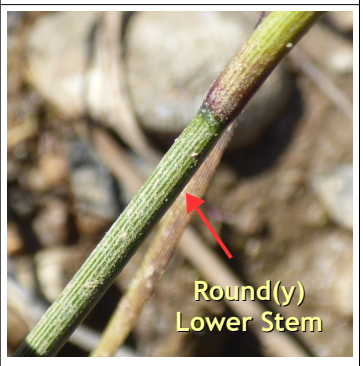




Common Cotton Grass – Commonish in the Pentlands and west of Livingston, sporadic elsewhere. Eriophorum angustifolium - Map - COL:120-1, SDG3:78, STC3:942

- Turn your fingers round the *lower half* of the stem to feel it is round; it is three-sided immediately under the flower heads. (For stalks entirely three-sided see following two.)





Broad-Leaved Cotton-Grass –Peebleshire hills and southern end of the Pentlands - Eriophorum latifolium - Map - COL:120-2, SDG3:82, STC3:942
Multi-headed as Common, but:
Stem: three-sided throughout (not round below), **Leaves**: 3-8 mm wide, **Head-stalks (peduncles)**: Rough, **Stems**: multiple.

Elsewhere in Britain

Slender Cottongrass - Scattered in England and Ireland at and below Leeds - Eriophorum gracile - Map - COL:120-3, SDG3:84, STC3:942
Like Broad-Leaved above with **Stem**: three-sided throughout & **Head-stalks (peduncles)**: Rough, but: **Leaves**: 0.5-2 mm wide and **Stems**: solitory-looking.

Info

Updated : 2019-12-16 – please check you have the latest version!
Contact : David Merrick – facebook.com/meteorquake
Facebook Botany Group for Lothians : facebook.com/groups/lothiansbotany
All items in this Series : paintdrawer.co.uk/nature/edinburgh/downloads.htm